

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 MMS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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R 111305Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4550

INFO USUN NEW YORK 217

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, LT, OAU

SUBJ: OAU MEDAL AWARDED IN LESOTHO TO CHIEF LUTHULI'S
WIDOW

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. IN MASERU CEREMONY DECEMBER 10,
KING MOSHOE SHOE II PRESENTED TO WIDOW OF LATE ANC PRESIDENT
ALBERT LUTHULI OAU 10TH ANNIVERSRAY MEDAL IN RECOGNITION OF
HIS CONTRIBUTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN SOUTHERN AFRICA
THOROUGH HIS STRUGGLE AGAINST APARTHEID. CEREMONY COINCIDED
WITH UN HUMAN RIGHTS DAY.

2. OAU REPRESENTATIVE UNABLE TO BE PRESENT BUT OAU CITATION

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OF LUTHULI AWARD READ ON HIS BEHALF. UN REPRESENTED BY

KENNETH DADZIE (GHANIAN) OF SECRETERIAT. OAU MEMBERS
REPRESENTED INCLUDED BOTSWANA, SWAZILAND, ZAIRE, TANZANIA,
KENYA, GHANA, AND UGANDA, THE LAST WITH A 10-MAN DELEGATION.

3. KWA ZULU CHIEF CONCILLOR GATSHA BUTHHLEZI ATTENDED CEREMONY AS PART OF CHIEFTAINESS LUTHULI'S DELEGATION AT HER REQUEST AND ALSO SPOKE AT CEREMONY AT HER REQUEST. BUTHELEZI ARGUED MERITS OF MAINTAINING CHIEF LUTHULI'S DOCTRINE OF NON-VIOLENCE IN CARRYING ON FIGHT AGAINST APARTHEID, USING OCCASION TO ANSWER CRITICS WHO BELIEVE ONLY VIOLENT MEANS CAN SUCCEED IN PRODUCING SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE SAID CONTACTS WITH WHITE REGIME IN SOUTH AFRICA NECESSARY TO PROMOTE CHANGE BUT THEY SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS APPROVAL OF STATUS QUO. HE URGED THAT RECENT LUSAKA TALKS ON RHODESIA FUTURE NOT BE SNEERED AT AND, DRAWING ATTENTION TO RECENT STATEMENTS BY PRIME MINISTER VORSTER AND SOUTH AFRICAN UN PERMREP BOTHA, STATED THAT PROFESSIONS OF CHANGE MUST BEAR FRUIT OR SOUTH AFRICA WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CONSEQUENCES.

4. LESOTHO'S PRIME MINISTER CHIEF JONATHAN ALSO REFERRED TO RECENT SOUTH AFRICAN TALK OF CHANGE, EMPHASIZING THAT ACTION MUST MATCH WORDS. HE SAID THAT SOUTHERN AFRICA'S PROBLEMS SHOULD BE SOLVED BY PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN AFICA THEMSELVES AND, ALTHOUGH AFRICANS HAD BEEN PATIENT IN WAITING FOR WHITES TO MAKE UP THEIR MINDS ABOUT THE FUTURE, THIS PATIENCE WAS RUNNING OUT.

5. SMALL ANC CONTINGENT OF REFUGEES IN LESOTHO PRESENT FOR CEREMONY. SPOKESMAN AT CEREMONY. SPOKESMAN AT CEREMONY WAS HERBERT FANELE MBALE, WHO SOUGHT REFUGE IN LESOTHO IN LATE 1972 AND WAS LATER KIDNAPPED FOR SHORT WHILE BY SOUTH AFICANS (MASERU'S A-1, JAN. 1973 AND PREVIOUS REFS). HE LASHED OUT BITTERLY AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA, CONTRADICTING THE LUTHULI NON-VIOLENT CODE. MBALE CALLED FOR UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND URGED NO COMPROMISE WITH THOSE CONTEMPTUOUS OF HUMAN DIGNITY. REFERRING TO LUSAKA TALKS MBALE SAID AFICANS SHOULD NOT PULL CHESTNUTS OUT OF THE FIRE FOR WHITES. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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YM BEGIN L.O.U. DECEMBER 10 WAS BIG DAY FOR LESOTHO WITH FIRST OAU EVENT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE HELD ON ITS SOIL. THIS WILL AID LESOTHO'S EFFORTS TO BUILD TIES WITH REST OF BLACK AFRICA. WHAT WAS BIG EVENT FOR LESOTHO, HOWEVER, LIKELY TO GO DOWN IN SOUTH AFRICA'S BOOK AS FURTHER UNFRIENDLY ACTIVITY. CHIEF JONATHAN CONTINUED HIS CRITICISM OF APARTHEID IN HIS DECEMBER 10 SPEECH AND ALLOWED PROMINENT EXPOSURE FOR ANC REFUGEES WHO NORMALLY KEEP OUT OF SIGHT.

7. OAU MEDAL CEREMONY ALSO PRODUCED UNUSUAL CONTACT BETWEEN HOMELAND LEADER BUTHELEZI AND HIGHEST OFFICIALS IN LESOTHO GOVERNMENT. LESOTHO DOES NOT NORMALLY WELCOME SUCH CONTACTS AS IT IS SENSITIVE ABOUT INVITING COMPARISONS BETWEEN ITSELF AND HOMELANDS. JONATHAN AND BUTHELEZI HELD TALKS DURING LATTER'S VISIT BUT IT NOT LIKELY SUBSTANCE WILL BE PUBLICIZED BY GOL. BUTHELEZI HIMSELF SAID PRIVATELY HE WAS PLEASED TO HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE HIS CASE TO LESOTHO'S LEADERS.
END L.O.U. HAUGHT

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